

Heber Amusement Hall  
SE corner of 100 North and 100 West Streets  
Heber City  
Wasatch County  
Utah

HABS No. U-28

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. U-28

HEBER AMUSEMENT HALL

Location: Southeast corner of 100 North and 100 West Streets,  
(Heber Town Square), Heber City, Wasatch County,  
Utah.  
Latitude: 40° 30' 31" N Longitude: 111° 24' 51" W

Present Owner: Heber City

Present Occupant: Heber City

Present Use: Town Recreation Hall

Statement of  
Significance: Part of what is probably the only remaining ori-  
ginal Mormon town square in Utah, not encroached  
upon by other buildings. One of few spring-  
mounted dancefloors in Utah.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners:

Wasatch Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter  
Day Saints

Heber City

2. Date of erection: 1908

3. Architect: Mr. Watkins of Provo, Utah

4. Builder, suppliers, etc.: Edward D. Clyde

5. Original plan and construction: The Wasatch Wave on  
February 9, 1906 announced that the new hall would be  
"patterned after the Apollo Hall at American Fork (Utah)"  
and that it would be 60 x 120 feet in size. They also  
stated that "it is expected work will commence next week".  
However, it was not until April 20, 1906 that an article  
announced the start of construction at the site. Evi-  
dently this only applied to the site work since an arti-  
cle on June 1, 1906 informs that "valuable information  
has been gained and submitted to Architect Watkins of  
Provo (Utah) who is now drafting plans and specifications  
for a building which will combine the best features of  
the most up to date halls of our state." Apparently  
construction lagged, for the July 24, 1908 issue of the  
Wave indicated that construction was only substantially  
complete.

They described the building as follows:

"The ballroom is 123 by 58 feet. The dancing floor is laid, the first of Oregon fir, the second of maple and placed upon 56 springs bedded on native sandstone. It will be one of the finest dancing floors in the state. The ceiling is modeled after the dance hall at Brigham City, with pendant arches running across about 20 feet apart, which is supposed to improve the acoustic properties. In the front of the building will be two dressing rooms, one on each side of the large central door, with a wash room and toilet attached to each. There will also be a ticket office and cloak room in the front end of the hall and over these rooms will be a gallery provided with comfortable seats for those who do not wish to participate in the dance, or wish to rest while watching the others dance."

It continues

"At the south end of the hall is a platform provided for the use of the orchestra. The large room west of the hall will be used for the present for refreshments where lemonade and other mild drinks may be obtained. While the hall is not completed by any means, the floor has been laid and seats made around the dance floor, so it is convenient for dancing in good weather. A ball was held there last night, and another will be given this evening."

6. Alterations and additions: A kitchen was added to the Southwest corner of the building sometime before 1917 as indicated on a Sanborn map of that year. In 1928 some remodeling took place as reported in the town paper of that year. Early photographs indicate considerable later revision to the north facade.

B. Historical Events and Persons Associated with the Building:

This building was one of the first cooperative projects of the three wards (ecclesiastical subdivision) of the Wasatch Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons). Most of the work was done by volunteer labor.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Interview with Mr. Don Barker, President, Heber City Historical Society.

Interview with Mrs. Ruth Witt, Treasurer, Heber City Historical Society.

Sanborn Map Co., Map of Heber City, 1917.

2. Bibliography:

Mortimer, Wm. James, How Beautiful Upon the Mountains,  
Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, 1963.

Wasatch Wave, 1906.

Wasatch Wave, 1908.

Wasatch Wave, April 20, 1928

Prepared by John L. Giusti, AIA  
September 5, 1967

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural interest: Besides being a typical early Utah public recreation facility, the Heber Amusement Hall is located on the Heber Town Square which is in itself typical of the early Utah town square which provided facilities for governmental, religious and recreational activities.
2. Condition of fabric: Good, although remodeling in 1928 considerably altered the original structure.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: A one-story, 126' 2" x 61' north-south rectangle intersects with an east-west 61' x 40' 8" rectangle to form a "T".
2. Foundations: Red sandstone.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Rough, coursed red sandstone ashlar.
4. Structural system, framing: Masonry walls support a timber roof frame.
5. Porches and stoops: Concrete stoops at the north and west entrances are modern.
6. Chimneys: Two modern chimneys, one at southeast corner and the other at the southwest portion of the west side are brick.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: North and west doorways have Roman arches over a semicircular window and three doors. The doors are modern. The south stage doorways have heavy timber lintels. French doors have eight lights in each door.
- b. Windows: Windows on either side of the two main entrances have semicircular arches and are double hung with two-over-one and one-over-one lights. Beneath the arches there are four lights. North windows have four vertical wood panels at the gallery level. Above the two entrance doors are three round openings which presumably once held glass. All other windows are double hung with red sandstone lintels, and four-over-four lights.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Roof is hipped with gables at the north and west entrances, and is covered with shingles. It is suspected that this roof dates from 1928. Old views show a false front with a shaped gable.
- b. Cornice: Wood cornice has crown and bed moldings.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The building is divided into a social hall in the west projection and a dance hall in the eastern portion. At the north end of the dance hall a small band shell replaces the larger original stage. At the south end a ticket office, cloak room and two dressing rooms with washrooms and toilet rooms. Above these rooms is a gallery for non-participant observers.
2. Stairways: The only stairways are at the north end of the dance hall and lead to the gallery along the east and west walls.
3. Flooring: All flooring is maple laid on Oregon Fir. The dance floor is raised and rests on fifty-six springs bedded in native red sandstone.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Modern acoustical dropped ceiling installed in 1928 replaces pendant arches at twenty feet on centers originally put in for acoustical purposes. Walls are plastered, with tongue and groove wainscots.

5. Doorways and doors: Modern folding doors separate the social hall from the dance floor. All other doors and doorways are modern.
6. Lighting, type of fixtures: Modern incandescent.
7. Heating: The present central furnace replaces an earlier one.

D. Site and Surroundings:

1. Orientation: The building fronts 84' from the center of 100 North Street and 50' from the center of 100 West Street located in the north-west quadrant of the historic Heber Town Square and has the Wasatch County Courthouse and Jail to the south-east and the Wasatch Stake Tabernacle to the east.
2. Landscaping and walks, enclosures: The building is located next to the sidewalks which encircle the park-like Heber Town Square. There is a modern asphalt parking area to the south.

Prepared by C. W. Barrow, Jr.  
Student Assistant Architect  
Utah Project 1967  
June 30, 1967

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This record is part of a Utah Survey conducted in the summers of 1967 and 1968 under joint sponsorship of the Historic American Buildings Survey of the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation of the National Park Service and the Utah Heritage Foundation.

Field work, historic research and record drawings were done under the direction of Project Supervisor Paul Goeldner, AIA (Texas Tech University) assisted by Project Historian John L. Giusti, AIA (University of Utah). Photographs were made by P. Kent Fairbanks of Salt Lake City.

Student Assistant Architects on the 1967 team were Robert M. Swanson and Charles W. Barrow, (University of Texas) and Kenneth L. Lambert and Keith Sorenson, (University of Utah). 1968 Student Assistant Architects were Keith Sorenson, Charles D. Harker and Robert Schriever, (University of Utah) and Donald G. Prycer, (Texas A. & M. University).